130 L. S. B. Leakey.—*Some Notes on the Manel of Kenya Colony.*

Preface.

[1] In the past very little detailed work on the social life of the Manel has been attempted,
[2] since such investigations cannot well be made through interpreters, while few, if any, Europeans speak the Manel language sufficiently fluently to make such an investigation in that language.

Although I cannot claim any knowledge of the language of the Manel, I have been fortunate enough to become friendly with two Manel who speak Kikuyu fluently, and as I speak Kikuyu as well as I do English I was able to learn everything from them about their customs.

[3] These notes are of necessity brief and full of lacunæ, since I avoided asking direct leading questions, though tempted to do so, and also because they do not include information unless it was obtained from or corroborated by more than one informant.

[4] The Manel from whom this information was obtained came from that part of the Manel Reserve which lies to the west of the Mau Escarpment, and I was not able to find out whether these customs prevailed among the whole of the Manel group.

My two principal informants were an old woman, past child-bearing, and her married son, aged about 30 (I have unfortunately lost the paper with their names).

[5] They were insistent that most of these customs have been slightly modified since
[6] government control has been set up, but I have, nevertheless, written mainly in the present tense.

Part I.—Ceremonies.

§ 1 *Birth.*—Among the Manel, birth takes place in the woman's own hut in her husband's village and she is attended by an old woman of her husband's family. Other women may be present, but no men. If a woman is having her first child she assumes a stooping position supported by other women, as the first child is considered more difficult to deliver; otherwise a woman giving birth to a child lies upon the bed. The acting midwife cuts the cord with a special instrument,* and both the woman and new-born child are washed with warm water. The placenta is carried out and thrown down in the cattle yard, but is not buried. As soon as the child is born two or more are killed in order that an animal may be bled to supply blood for the mother to drink. If the child is a boy the blood is obtained from a young bull, and if a girl, from a young heifer. (For method of procuring blood see Part IX.) From the day of
[7] birth onwards many sheep and goats are killed to supply meat and fat for the mother in order that the child may grow up strong, but these animals have no special significance, and are not sacrificial or for purification purposes.

§ 2 *Naming Ceremony.*—Children are not named until they can run about, and unlike
[8] some other East African tribes, the child does not inherit any name from any

* There is some mystery attaching to the instrument used, and I am not sure what it is.

14 Orr & Gilks D-4 (no date) 1931 FL12 Masai FL12
Kikuyu FL10

PREFACE.

The Medical Research Council are glad to publish in this series the following report by Dr. J. B. Orr, Director of the Rowett Research Institute at Aberdeen, and Dr. J. L. Gilks, Director of Medical and Sanitary Services in Kenya Colony and Protectorate. The report deals with an investigation into the physique and health of two African tribes, the Masai and the Akikuyu. The information brought forward is of great interest in relation both to general scientific questions of nutrition and to particular problems presented by the native races inhabiting British Colonies in the tropics.

The investigation described was made for the Dietetics Committee of the Committee of Civil Research (now the Economic Advisory Council), and was financed by grants made by the Empire Marketing Board. Publication by the Medical Research Council was recommended by the Committee, in order that the information contained in the report might be made available most effectively to those concerned.

The account of the investigations is here introduced by what is the Sixth Report of the Dietetics Committee. This document gives a history of the work and a survey of the data obtained. Everything of scientific importance contained in the five unpublished interim reports that preceded it, as also in certain technical papers by the several investigators (*see* p. 8), is included in the present publication.

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL,
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Westminster, S.W.1.

9th *March*, 1931.

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Fortsetzung./

104 For the spelling of Masai words the German pronunciation was generally decisive. Hence only the following signs remain to be explained:

ɛ is the German *ä* sound in Wähne or in malen, to beat.
ŋ is a middle sound between n and ng.
oi as in Loi, boy.
ɣ is a German g, Sayana.
ɨ is the sound e in Wenge, alien.

(119) Concerning the grammar, it is to be noted that ol, el, en (ol, il, ɨl, ɨn) are articles, the vowels of which, for the sake of euphony, may take on the most varied tone-colors ol and en are the articles of the singular, il and ɨl those of the plural.

• 122 Before I conclude these lines, I have to pay a debt of gratitude. To His Highness, Duke Johann Albrecht of Mecklenburg, as the President of the Deutsches Kolonialgesellschaft /German Colonial Society/, I owe most humble thanks for the granting of a sum which made possible the printing of this book, and similarly to the Director and Board of this Gesellschaft. Furthermore, I have to thank Herr Stabsarzt /staff physician/ Dr. Dinkler for his kind assistance in the preparation of the numerical collected, Herr Marinestabsarzt (retired) Dr. L. Sander, who kindly supervised the reading of the proofs, which I was prevented from doing because of my return to German East Africa, as well as Herr Professor Volkens, who looked over the botanical appendix. I also extend heartfelt thanks to Herr C. G. Schillings and Herr Missionar Emil Miller, Herr Oberleutnant L.d. Sch. Peter's E, Herr Regierungs-veterinärarzt /government veterinarian/ Brauer, and Herr Kaufmann /merchant/ Meinertzhin (Moritz /Moritz/), who most obligingly lent me a large number of photographs for the explanatory illustrations.

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The Author.

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18: Allison et al. D-5 (1949) 1952
FL11 Luo FL11
Kikuyu FL10
Masai FL1²

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frequencies agree well, it cannot be said with certainty that all the C and E genes are, as assumed, in the respective combinations Cde and cdE; it is possible that the chromosomes CDe and cDE are present in the phenotypes CcDee and ccDEe. The Kikuyu Rh groups are easier to interpret. The chromosome cDe is still very abundant though less so than in the Luo, while cde remains rare.

The mixed series of specimens shows less extreme values for both cDe and cde than either of the pure series, suggesting that the extreme character of both of the latter series is in part an accident of sampling. Moreover, individual batches of specimens from different areas seemed to have characters of their own and, though these variations were scarcely significant statistically, it is possible that there is some heterogeneity of Rh constitution even within racial groups. Much more numerous tests must be done on both tribes before their Rh constitution can be clearly interpreted.

Taking all blood group systems into consideration, it is surprising to see how slight are the differences between the Nilotic Luo and the Eastern Bantu Kikuyu. From the present study and the results of Elsdon-Dew (1939) the tentative conclusion can be drawn that the East African native population (apart from the Masai and other Hamitic tribes) is, on the whole, fairly uniform.

Acknowledgements

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Our thanks are due to colleagues in East Africa who facilitated the collection of the blood, and to Captain T. H. C. Allison who arranged the dispatch of several batches of specimens. We also wish to thank Miss P. J. Brooks and Miss K. E. Garner for skilled technical assistance in the numerous tests involved. The investigation was made possible by generous financial grants from the Royal Anthropological Institute and the Viking Fund, Inc., New York.

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[B. bibliography – see also p. 59a]

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[p. 59b]

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[For information on practical preparations, passim, see category 116, pp. 11-49 and 416-425.]